



THE HARPER ADJUNCT ADVOCATE

**HARPER COLLEGE ADJUNCT FACULTY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

May 2009, No.3, Vol.4

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(847) 359-0300

553 N. North Court, Suite 210, Palatine, IL 60067-8124

**HARPER'S SCHOOL YEAR
MAY BE WINDING DOWN,
BUT HCAFA'S YEAR IS REVVING UP!**

IMPORTANT DATES TO SAVE!

**Next Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, June 5, 1:30 – 3:30**

IEA Office, 553 N. North Ct., Palatine

The dates and times of the July and August meetings have not yet been determined. Please contact Amy or Mary Ellen at IEA (847 359-0300) for more information, directions, and summer meeting dates.

HCAFA Family BBQ

Come join us this summer for an evening of casual fun, conversation, food, and friendship. Watch your email inboxes for an e-survey regarding membership and the BBQ. Aren't sure that we have your email address that you can be reached at easily? **NO PROBLEM!** Please fill out the form on our website <http://www.harperadjuncts.org/contact-form-general.htm> or email JJ Pionke, Membership Chair at deepforestowl@gmail.com. We'll update our records so that you get the e-survey

**HCAFA's Sushi and Sandwich Soirée
Monday, August 17, 4:00 – 5:00**

The Soirée is a mostly social get-to-know-you event held during Harper's Orientation Week

**IEA Higher Ed Conference
October 1 – 3**

The theme will be "Under One Umbrella" and will address issues concerning IEA and local unions like HCAFA, your union!

**HCAFA Welcomes Members
At All HCAFA Meetings & Events**

Webmaster Needed!

We need YOU for webmaster! Frank Brooks has been our webmaster for many years and has done an outstanding job helping us keep all our members up-to-date. But now he's ready to pass the mantle on to another adjunct who might see redesigning and maintaining our website as a great resume-building opportunity. Our webpage is our primary repository of documents for our adjuncts and as such it has to be easily accessible by all levels of the computer literate. Come test your skills and get involved with your union! Attendance at monthly meetings is **NOT** required to be our webmaster! Keeping the webpage up to date is!

Election Results

Thanks to all who cast votes in HCAFA's election of Officers and Division Representatives. A special thanks goes to the many adjuncts that volunteered to become involved as Reps. Reps are members of the executive committee and play a critical role in facilitating meaningful communication between HCAFA and its members. Congratulations to returnees and welcome to all new representatives.

HCAFA Executive Officers:

President: Ilona Sala

Vice-President/Grievance Chair: Charmian Tashjian

Secretary: Arlene Bublick

Treasurer: Rob Alexander

Membership Records Chair – Janice Cutler

Division Representatives

LibArts: Julie Cudden, J.J. Pionke, Larry Price

MS: Gary Wilson

AE/LS: Rob Alexander, Taimi Wilk

BUS/SS: Candace McCreary, George Nolasco

LIB/COUN: Bob Kaufman, Karin Lacour Rivers,

Krista McAdamis, Joanne Meyerhoff,

Dwain Thomas, Sandra Vega-Pichiatti.

Note: For divisions without reps, we'll do our best to keep you informed through newsletters. If you find time this fall, please consider becoming a rep and joining us for our monthly meetings. It will be to your advantage and you will love the friendships.

IEA Sponsors Unemployment Insurance Initiative for Adjuncts

Senate Joint Resolution 29 creates a task force to examine the growth in part-time faculty instructors. It also requires the task force to examine the availability of unemployment insurance to those teachers. A report is due to the Illinois General Assembly by July 2010. This legislation is an initiative of the IEA Higher Education Council and passed out of the full Senate with unanimous support.

Higher Ed Region

It has finally happened. This month, City Colleges, Roosevelt University, and Triton College will form the first Higher Ed region in Illinois. The reason for the formation of this union is due to the expectation that those in the newly-formed region will have more in common and be able to share information. We'll be watching it closely to see if we too would benefit from forming a Higher Ed region in the suburbs. Region 42, the region we belong to, is a region based on geographical proximity and is comprised of grade schools, high schools and Harper College. The question the new city region will help answer is whether or not HCAFA would gain more from remaining in a geographically close region or from belonging to a region covering Higher Ed only.

More Than \$11,000 Remaining in Adjunct Teachers' Professional Development Fund



Teaching Adjuncts remember that June 10 is the deadline for reimbursement request approval for this spring term! By that time, you must have applied for pre-approval of the expense to your dean, gained pre approval before paying for the items, paid for the items by the end of finals week, submitted pages 1 and 2 of the professional development form along with original receipts for reimbursement to your dean.

To expedite your reimbursement for online purchases from sites such as Amazon.com, attach both your online confirmation of purchase and either your credit card statement, a packing slip, or a photo of the covers of the books received.

The professional development fund is a use-it-or-lose-it fund; money not used will revert to the College.

Congratulations, J.J. and HCAFA!

J.J. Pionke (LibArts) has been chosen by NEA to be a member of the Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA). The ELA is a great opportunity for higher visibility among Higher Ed unions across the country. JJ will learn leadership skills and strategies as well as network with other NEA members. Trips to Washington D.C. and San Francisco are in the offing. We're lucky to have our HCAFA member as one of the 20 participants!

Lobby Day

I was one of two thousand teachers who were in Springfield May 6 to talk with their legislators and Governor Quinn about the Quinn proposal to change teacher pension benefits. Lobby Day is a yearly occurrence, but this year it held considerable importance. Our pensions are in jeopardy. 1. They are under funded. 2. Governor Quinn wants to have a two-tiered system, one tier for current teachers and a different one for new teachers. (New teachers will work longer and have fewer benefits). Members of HCAFA, HCAFA has sent you all emails asking you to contact your legislators. If you haven't done that yet, please do so as soon as possible by going to the legislature link on the IEA website, www.ieanea.org. By the end of May when the spring session closes, it will be too late. 3. Gov. Quinn had wanted all teachers to contribute another 2% into their retirement fund, with NO extra benefit (money) when they retired. By now you probably know that Governor Quinn has decided not to push for teachers to contribute another 2% to their pension funds. This announcement came at Lobby Day, but only to sporadic applause since Quinn is still pushing for the two-tiered system with fewer benefits and a greater number of working years. Quinn's defense is that Illinois is in financial trouble, but teachers have always paid their share. Unfortunately, when the state needed money, it didn't fund state pension funds. Thus, our pension fund is at a 50% level.

An interesting, you've-been-in-politics-too-long, note belongs to Mike Madigan. While most legislators were kind and open, even laying out food and drinks for teachers, Mike Madigan had the police greet teachers. The police barred access to his office, not allowing anyone near unless he/she had an appointment. He did not take appointments in the days before. "Mr. Madigan, you are an elected official; we pay your salary. We are your boss. Stop hiding."

Ilona Sala

HCAFA OFFICERS and DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES

President: Ilona Sala
Vice President/Grievance Chair: Charmian Tashjian
Treasurer: Janice Cutler
Secretary: Arlene Bublick
IEA/NEA Uniserv Director: Amy Kunz
Past President: Arlene Bublick

Ilona.Sala@comcast.net
grievance@harperadjuncts.org
treasurer@harperadjuncts.org
secretary@harperadjuncts.org
Amy.Kunz@IEANEA.org (847 359-0300)
pastpresident@harperadjuncts.org

LIB/COUN

Pat Zokal LC1@harperadjuncts.org

AE/LS:

Rob Alexander AELS1@harperadjuncts.org

Jackie Leo AELS2@harperadjuncts.org

Julie Ponce AELS3@harperadjuncts.org

Taimi Wilk AELS4@harperadjuncts.org

BUS/SS:

Megan Peterson BUS1@harperadjuncts.org

CTP:

Dale Hugo CTP1@harperadjuncts.org

HCPS:

Beth Nudelman HCPS1@harperadjuncts.org

LIBARTS:

J.J. Pionke LA1@harperadjuncts.org

Larry Price LA2@harperadjuncts.org

Charmian Tashjian LA3@harperadjuncts.org

MS:

Dale Hugo MS1@harperadjuncts.org

Krish Revuluri MS2@harperadjuncts.org

WWW.HARPERADJUNCTS.ORG

Have a wonderful summer!

